



Challenge Coins Represent Stories Worth Preserving

They're called "Challenge Coins," and many Veterans have received one from a unit they served in, a commander, a deployment, a moment in history, a retirement, or a reunion. There is a story behind each one, and they are an easy way to start a conversation with a fellow Veteran.

But the stories themselves are almost never written down. So when the Veteran passes, the coins go to family who can read the crest but may not know or remember the story it represents. **Russell Enloe's** poem in the September issue of *The Friendly Word* put it plainly: "We are lost soldiers with stories to tell."

Now there is a way to preserve the stories behind Challenge Coins. **All-Coin** allows a Veteran or a family member to photograph a coin and record it's story in a permanent, searchable Coin Library. The service is free for Veterans.

To take part, go to allcoin.braav.co or scan the QR

Code below and create a free account. An email address is all that's required. When you scan the QR Code or go to the website you'll be walked through creating an account and will receive a free Braav Welcome Coin.

Next photograph the front and back of a coin in good light and upload the pictures. Write whatever story you choose to write: who gave it, when, where, and what it meant. (Once your account is set up, you can also text photos of a coin, with your account name, to (805) 395-6805).

Your Challenge Coin and the story it represents

will live permanently where children and grandchildren can find it for decades to come.



Tuskegee Airman Col. James H. Harvey III Challenge Coin commemorating his 100th birthday.



A heartfelt thank you to **Sherri Mitchel** for her incredible generosity and talent! Sherri took time out of her busy life to crochet and donate 18 handmade Denver Broncos blankets and scarves for our **Sunday Broncos Potluck** raffles. These beautiful items bring team spirit and a personal touch to our gameday gatherings.

BRONCOS POTLUCK

BLANKET & SCARF RAFFLE





**2 TICKETS WILL BE
DRAWN AT THE END
OF EACH 2 PM GAME**



**PROCEEDS GO TO
POST 178 AUXILIARY**

THANK YOU TO SHERRI MITCHELL
FOR HAND-MAKING THE BLANKETS AND SCARVES!

★
AMERICAN LEGION POST 178
★

Raffle tickets will be sold at every 2:00 p.m. Broncos Potluck, with two winners announced at the end of each game. Any remaining items after the regular season will be raffled off during our Super Bowl Party.

We are deeply grateful for Sherri's dedication and support. Her contribution makes our Post even more special. —Dita Alexander



LEGION CHAPLAIN
Tim Karlson

Hi everyone, hope you all had a good summer. Fall is upon us now and so are the wonderful colors that come with it. I will miss my humming birds 'til next year. I wish good luck to all of our hunters and may they fill their freezers for Winter.

The **Car Show** was a hoot. Shout out to **Dave Dupree** for all his hard work every year setting it up and to all the many other volunteers that make it such a success for our Post.

I'd like to talk about "random acts of kindness." This last spring, a person or persons unknown to me brought little solo cups of tomato sprouts to the Post and set them on a table for any of us to take home. They had taken the time to get the cups, fill them with soil, put a seed in them, and nurture them to sprout.

I picked one with "Sunburst" written on the side of the cup. I have never before heard of a Sunburst tomato. I had my son grab one of my many pots that have gone unused for years and fill it with soil left over from years past. I replanted the sprout and placed the pot on my front porch where I could see it through my front door, and watered it every day. From my favorite chair I could watch it grow day-by-day and enjoy the humming birds using a feeder directly above.

It grew and grew and started producing tomatoes quickly. They were small, like cherry tomatoes that weren't red but a beautiful Sunburst color (hence the name). It has given me snacks everyday. I picked them whenever I went out and watered it. They are very sweet. Cut them in half, put a little sugar on them, and it's like eating a piece of candy. Put a little salt on them and they become a sweet, salty snack. Or they're great just plain. That little sprout grown into a tomato plant has made me smile (and my taste buds happy) everyday for months.

A random act of kindness, that put a smile on my face all summer long. Thus, I implore everyone to remember that what may seem to be a small gesture of kindness can brighten someone else's day, month, or even more. So make someone's day! A small thing to you, may be a huge thing to another person!

Dear Lord, please give us all the courage and tenacity to brighten up a neighbor's day with a random act of kindness. Protect our troops as they protect us and please direct new people to join our friendly Post. Amen.

COMMANDER'S REPORT
Russ Scott

One of the issues that needs to be addressed is parking in the south lot. If you drive a pickup truck or SUV with a hitch on the back, please don't back into the spaces facing the new fence of our neighbor. Someone did back into one of those spaces and broke the fence with the hitch. Of course, we don't know who it was, but we had to pay to have it fixed. Thank you for your cooperation!

The **Car Show** was a great success. Except for the rain it went off without a problem. Thanks to all the volunteers who participated and made it happen.

Next up is more of a personal note. I don't believe it is in the best interest of Post 178, or mine, to run for commander in the coming year. Anyone who is interested in the position should contact me with a plan to spend some time getting to know the duties and responsibilities of being commander. Even if no one contacts me for training I will be stepping down from the position on July 1st.

SAL REPORT
Brad Hall

Getting real close to another trip around the Sun. Time really flies.

We did the ribs for the **Car Show** and I would like to thank all that helped out.

Ribs are pretty labor intensive, especially when you do 55 racks at a time. Big shout out to the following people: **Keith Saunders, Jim Weiger, Bill Black, Dave McBrien, Alan Hall, Ronnie Braun, Randy Baria, Christian O'Connell, Jena Davis, Brad Revard, Karla Scott, Rick Korona, and Chris Jandro!** It was great having you all.

We will have a meeting in October and try and get back on schedule. Please get your dues in so there is not an avalanche of them at the end of the year. Thank a Veteran when you see one!



BUSINESS REPORT

Bob Heer

Other than the rain shower during the **Car Show** that cut the event short, overall, the day was very successful. The breakfast crew served in excess of 120 plates, the SAL sold out their ribs, and the Auxiliary had a positive bake sale. Big thanks to the many volunteers who made the day a success.

Recently we have had some unintended damage to our South cedar fence as well as the North side of the building. All because of extended hitches/racks on vehicles. If you have an extended hitch or rack on your vehicle, please do not back into the parking space as the extension will hit the fence or building before the rear tires touch the parking blocks.

I want to thank **O'Toole's Garden Centers** for donating a \$100 gift certificate for backyard plants. Thanks to **Chuck Washington** for making the contact with O'Toole's.

AUXILIARY REPORT

Kay Scott

The **Auxiliary Yard Sale** on September 11th was filled with sellers on the south parking lot as well in the picnic area and patio. Great thanks to those helping to set up and tear down and includes **Shari Davis, Leslie Moore, and Dee Yurko. Jennifer Braniff** helped take donations for beverages and treats.

The **Car Show Bake Sale** on September 19th was a huge success as so many Auxiliary members donated their time and baking skills! Huge thanks to those providing baked goods and their time pricing the treats and working the sale tables including: **Shari Davis, Carol Jansons, Kathy Schwab, Ranya Kelly, Lisa Mull, Christian O'Connell, Yvonne Trujillo, Helen Muskopf, Jena Davis, Julie Crespín, Tracy Garner, and Alysyn Harvey-Green.** Thank you, **Nancy Carter**, for washing breakfast dishes. Thank you, **Jennifer Braniff**, for taking donations at the Chocolate Candy Table. Thank you, **Sher-ee Evans-Metcalf** for being the Auxiliary Car Judge.

Ranya Kelly of **RCI/Warriors Warehouse** continues to collect new, gently used, and clean coats at Post 178. The deadline for bringing them in is October 10th. A labeled bin is close to the East entrance to the Post to put them in.

Soon we will begin collecting NEW (with tags attached) stuffed animals to be donated to **Police and Fire Departments** in the Lakewood area for children following a traumatic event. A bin will be labeled for these donations after the coat collection is over.

A delicious meal is planned for Friday, October 30th. The **Early Bird Dinner** will be prepared and served by Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary Volunteers. We're also making it a Halloween Party so dust off your scariest costume to wear.

RIDERS REPORT

John Lobdell

Since transferring to Post 178 I've been met with nothing but friendship. This Post lives up to its name: "**The Friendly Post.**" My first day our beautiful **Kathy Schwab** took me by the hand and showed me the entire Post. Then there are **Mark Ward and Shari Davis.** What a wonderful couple. Mark keeps selling food I love and Shari has the most beautiful smile. It warms my heart to see it.

I must also recognize our Auxiliary members, who work tirelessly to support our Post. **Dave McBrien** works so hard to make **SAL Sunday Breakfasts.** I never miss them. Thursday and Saturday **Bingo** is a blast with so many people coming to have fun and support the Post. **Mark, Shari, and Dee Yurko** work so hard, as do the game callers. I'm very happy to be a part of this wonderful Post and plan to be for many years to come.

Just a reminder, the Riders will be serving our **Friday Night Dinners** as always in October.

Fran Bowers

April 3, 1943 — September 24, 2026



With great sorrow I must report that our dear friend and Auxiliary member Fran Bowers died September 24th, 2026.

For many years Fran clipped newspaper coupons (her husband Joe helped too) for food and non-food products, boxed them up, and on her own dime mailed them to Commissaries around the world. She wanted to continue performing this task for as long as possible since she was unable to help in other ways at the Post.

In the last few years, Fran has struggled to find coupons because many newspapers are not in print anymore. We will try to continue to Fran's work to provide grocery coupons to deployed military and welcome anyone's assistance.

Commissaries accept coupons even six months past their expiration. —Kay Scott

Post 178 Car Show (photos by Jena Eckrote-Davis and Rob Ostrander)



**2026 CAR SHOW T-SHIRTS
\$25**



Thank You Volunteers

Kitchen

Judy Myers
Jena Davis
Dave Mull
Jan Casper
Tim Karlson
Ron Fielder
Nancy Carter
Terry Osterhaus

Joe Calabro
Keith Saunders
Nancy Marshall
Darrell McIntire
Kathleen O'Brien
Wayne McClimans

Judges

Joe Becerrill
Nick Trujillo
Brian Backus
Sherri Metcalf
Frank Peterson
Domonick Samuels

Outside

Rob Dines
Judy Eberly
Chris Jandro

L & XL ONLY

PURCHASE YOURS FROM THE BARTENDER



PAPER PUMPKINS FOR A CAUSE



See Shari
Davis or
The
Bartender



\$1 EACH
6 FOR \$5



All proceeds go
toward the Ft. Carson
Food Bank

★ American Legion Post 178 ★

AMERICAN LEGION



POST 178



FRIDAY



WING



FLING



FRIDAYS
11-3



\$0.75 PER
WING
6 WING MINIMUM



GREAT FOOD.
GOOD PEOPLE.
STRONG COMMUNITY.



1655 SIMMS STREET



AMERICAN LEGION POST 178

BRONCOS FOOTBALL



SUNDAY POTLUCKS

ALL 2PM GAMES

BRING A DISH OR PAY \$5 TO EAT
WRIST BAND FROM BARTENDER
REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE